



*from* the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Rep. Joseph Neal newest member of the EOC**

*EDITOR'S NOTE: the complete list of EOC members, their appointments, and terms are available on the Committee Members page of the EOC website at [www.sceoc.org](http://www.sceoc.org).*

**Columbia** – Rep. Joseph Neal of Hopkins has been appointed to serve as a member of the SC Education Oversight Committee.

Rep. Neal's appointment by House Speaker David H. Wilkins in the coterminous seat reserved for the house speaker or his designee begins immediately. Neal replaces Susan Hoag who resigned Feb. 6, 2004.

"Representative Neal brings years of experience and commitment to education to this very important committee," Wilkins said. "The students and teachers of South Carolina will have no stronger advocate representing them on the EOC than Joe Neal."

Rep. Neal, who has served in the House since 1993 representing Richland and Sumter counties, said he looks forward to his service on the EOC.

"I look forward to contributing to the mission of the EOC and to the improvement of quality education for all students in South Carolina," Neal said.

Rep. Neal is the minister of Calvary Baptist Church and vice president of New Horizons Systems. He received a bachelor's degree from Benedict College and furthered studies at Colgate Divinity School and Pittsburg Theological Seminary.

Neal, who served as chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus in 2000, currently serves on the House Education and Public Works Committee and the House Rules Committee. He is a member of numerous organizations including the Citizens for Hopkins Community Organization; NAACP; Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; and the American Society of Software Engineers. He serves on the boards of several organizations including S.C. Fair Share, the Citizens Local Environment Action Network (CLEAN), and S.C. Environmental Watch.

The EOC is an independent, non-partisan group made up of 18 educators, business persons, and elected officials who are appointed by the legislature and governor to monitor and review the implementation of the 1998 South Carolina Education Accountability Act, the Education Improvement Act, and the K-12 system.

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